

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Holy Name Catholic Church

other name/site number New Day Missionary Baptist Church

**2. Location**

street & town 2800 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street N/A not for publication

city or town Kansas City N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64127

**3. Statement**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Remarks**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Holy Name Catholic Church  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Work in Progress

Religion: Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/Late Gothic Revival

foundation	Limestone
walls	Limestone
	Concrete
roof	Slate
other	Terracotta

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Holy Name Catholic Church  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Social History \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1911-28 \_\_\_\_\_

1968 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928 \_\_\_\_\_

1968 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Wight & Wight \_\_\_\_\_

Brinkman, Henry W. \_\_\_\_\_

Pavlick, Frank/General Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Holy Name Catholic Church  
Name of Property

Jackson County, MO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 3/6/6/0/2/0 4/3/2/7/1/2/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Bruce Best and Bradley Wolf Revised with Dr. Frank Selkirk pastor New Day Missionary Baptist Church  
organization AGMP Architects & Kansas City Landmarks Commission date 11/25/2002 revised 8/05/03  
street & number 414 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall telephone 816 309 4520  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64106

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title New Day Real Estate Investment Corporation Attn: Nathaniel Mason  
street & number 9520 Olmstead telephone 816 309 4520  
city or town Kansas City, state MO zip code 64134

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

**Summary:** Holy Name Catholic Church, located on the northeast corner of 23rd and Benton Boulevard, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, is a Late Gothic Revival style building. The site includes one contributing building and one contributing structure: the church, and the power plant chimney. The construction of the church, overseen by general contractor Frank Pavlick, began in 1911 and was completed in 1928. Wight & Wight, a well-respected Kansas City architectural firm, provided the original design of the church that was later modified by Henry Brinkman. The over twenty-two thousand square foot building has the traditional Catholic Church cruciform plan with the main entry located to the south and a semi-circular sacristy at the north end. This traditional church "cross" design is formed by the intersection of the high nave with the high east-west transepts that are visible from both interior and exterior. Behind the altar on the north end, the upper roof and the lower sacristy are in the form of a half-hexagon with three exposed sides. The sacristy, sanctuary and the lower nave provide a continuous stepped-out base for the upper nave and a smooth attachment to the lower sides of the steeples giving an overall rectangular shape that has a half round end on the north side.



Holy Name Church 2800 East 23rd St. Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri 2001.

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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

### Setting:

The church is located in a primarily residential area with some neighborhood commercial buildings. The church is on Benton Boulevard, part of the George Kessler designed Parks and Boulevard system of Kansas City. City workers completed this section of the Boulevard in 1907, and much like the freeways of today, development of neighborhoods followed.<sup>1</sup> The church serves as a significant landmark that towers over the neighboring homes and provides an anchor for the community.

### Architectural Description:

The exterior building surface is random ashlar pattern cut limestone. The design included various cast and/or cut stone details along the eaves the south face and on the spires. Along with the cast stone there are portions of the transept windows and the rose window that are terracotta finished to look like cut stone.

The structural system of this building is stone bearing wall construction on the exterior walls with internal steel support columns and steel roof trusses for the high nave. All the exterior walls are set on stone foundation walls. The interior columns and the main floor slab are of cast-in-place reinforced concrete. The main floor is also covered in polished multi-colored terrazzo in the nave, and cut limestone with a sandblasted texture in the sanctuary. The nave portion of the floor is sloped to allow better viewing. The lower level floor is a flat smooth finished exposed concrete floor.

The roof deck of the high nave is wood decking secured to the steel trusses with the slate shingles with copper flashings secured to the decking. The lower nave is wood decking over sloped wood joists set in the bearing walls on the exterior and on steel beams at the interior connection. The roof deck membrane is a built-up felt and tar over metal flashing and cants draining to the exterior edge of the roof to copper down spouts. The lower nave roofs are hidden by the lower exterior stonewalls and cannot be seen from the ground.

Stained glass windows are one of this building's main exterior and interior features. It contains 16 large gothic shaped stained glass windows into the nave including large windows that nearly reach the floor in the East and West ends of the transepts and a large rose window on the South elevation. Almost all of the other smaller windows in this structure are gothic in shape and have a diverse types of glass in them from smooth clear float glass to textured clear and frosted glass.

Interior main floor wall and ceiling surfaces are plaster with vaulted arches, attached columns and smooth wall surfaces with raised plaster fan tracery between these elements. The interior columns all have extended bases and Corinthian capitals. All interior wall columns and tracery are smooth painted in a similar warm yellow color with the exception of portions of the North end of the Sacristy as this area contains stucco panel murals that have suffered some damage.

At the South end of the nave just below the rose window there is a terracotta faced choir loft that

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<sup>1</sup> Janice Lee, David Boutros, Charlotte R. White, Deon Wolfenbarger, eds. *A Legacy of Design: An Historical Survey of the Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Boulevards System 1893-1994*, 1995, p. 163

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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

features dark oak flooring and trim. This loft contains the remains of the original pipe organ and has an associated pump room.

### **South Elevation (Main Façade)**

The south façade is the primary entrance to the church, and has a steeply pitched gable front flanked on each corner by multi-sided towers. A large rose window is centered in the façade directly over the ornately detailed entrance. Shorter wings on either side of the center gable feature hip roofs and Gothic arch windows. The east wing also includes a stone staircase to an entrance on the east façade.

The southeast corner tower is the lower of the two and has a rounded faceted dome shape formed by copper sheeting over a wood structure. The dome is topped with a stone cross. The southwest tower is approximately 140' tall. This attached octagon tower comes to a traditional point with a cross at the very top. The top third is also a wood structure covered by copper sheeting. The lower two thirds of this tower include detailed cast-stone decoration details including outstanding animal gargoyles, finials, plinths and other decorative capstones.

The south entry roof has a 7/12 slope over the east and west stairs at the south end of the building and are covered in a gray green slate type shingles. The roof ends with a hip as opposed to the typical gable endings. The entry features dual entrances surrounded by one large discharging arch. A single quatrefoil design is centered on top of the discharging arch and is surrounded by a decorative gable topped with a cross pinnacle. A decorative arcading balustrade surrounds the arched entrance.

There is a single large rose window located on the south gable face of the upper nave that is 16' in diameter surrounded by terracotta masonry units that are 18" wide. These terracotta units are glazed to appear as cut stone. The tracery of the rose window is made up of similar segmented terracotta units all matching the terracotta trim.

### **North Elevation**

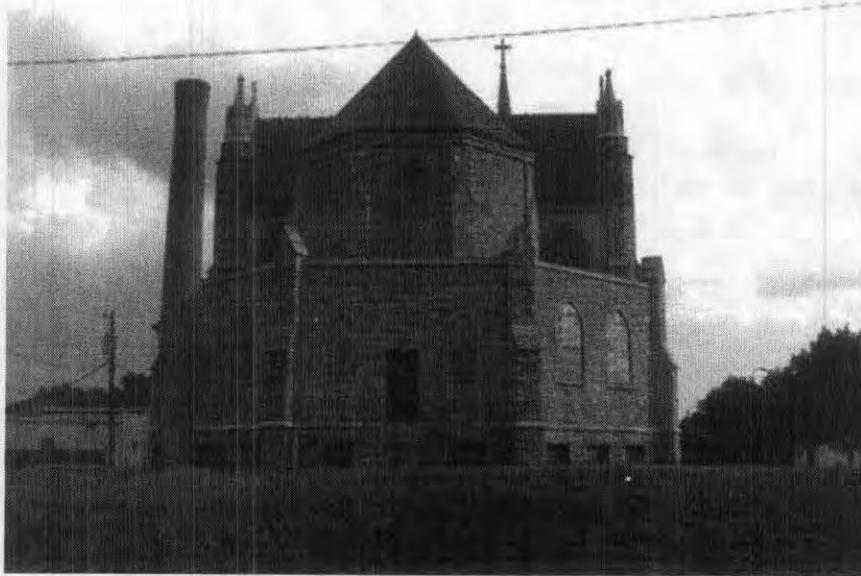
The north elevation is overall hexagonal in shape and has six gothic arched windows on the first story with a small wood entry door in the center. The altar window is in this location and is similar to the window on the east and west transepts.

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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**



North elevation and power plant chimney.

### West and East Elevations

The east elevation faces a parking lot, while the west elevation is located on Benton Boulevard. Other than the corner entrances, the two sides are identical. The east elevation has a one-point arched entry while the west features two pointed arched entries with double doors. Both facades feature buttresses, one of the defining features of the Late Gothic Revival style. These buttresses are limestone, rectangular with a half gable approximately halfway up the buttress, then reducing in width leading up to a gabled top. This buttress is similar to the Early English buttress type.<sup>2</sup>

Between the buttresses are 16'-0" high gothic arched wood windows. Tracery within these windows is made up of steam bent wood pieces joined and fitted to look like a single cut stone unit. The tracery work includes a round section in the point of the larger window over three smaller gothic arched windows. The upper portion of all of the windows is glazed with matched stained glass.

### Interior

The floor plan of the church is a cross pattern. The gothic stylistic themes on the outside of the building are carried throughout the interior as well. Gothic arches, quatrefoils, and tracery work closely associated with early gothic architecture are used throughout the interior. Pilasters with Corinthian capitals support the vaulted arched ceilings. The pilasters are coated in plaster that covers the structural terra cotta columns that support the almost 50' high ceiling. Much of the plaster is in deteriorated condition. The nave and east and west transepts lead up three steps to a platform that holds the sanctuary and was the site of the original altar.

<sup>2</sup> Cyril Harris, ed., *Historic Architecture Sourcebook*. New York: McGraw-Hill Co. 1977, p. 77.

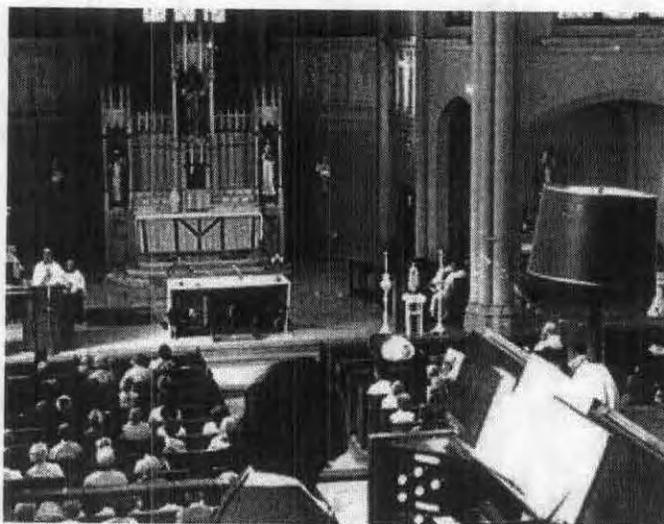
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

The sacristy's ceiling, at 45', is almost the same height as the rest of the church. The sacristy walls feature the north altar window flanked by two murals. The ceiling features decorative scrolled paintings. The walls also feature twelve panels with decorative plaster medallions.



Historic view of altar from choir loft.

The original organ is located in the choir loft at the south end of the church and is no longer functional. The choir loft is located in the rear (south) side of the sanctuary, and has wood flooring. All of the pews have been removed.

### Doors

The main floor doors are heavy plank wood construction with wrought iron reinforcing hardware, hinges and lock sets. The most elaborate doors are those of the south entry, with wrought iron tracery and exposed bolts set into the surface of the doors. All doors, including all of the ironwork, are currently painted a dark black-brown color.

### Basement

Basement walls are dressed limestone imbedded in mortar. The exterior bearing walls are, in most cases, over two feet thick. The thickness increases as required to support all attached columns and pilasters found on the exposed walls above. All columns are directly below the steel framing structure and are sized in accordance to the load imposed by the building above. The four largest columns are located below the transept nave intersection and are almost double the size of the other columns, as these were designed for the original proposed 250 foot central spire that was later deleted because of cost considerations. All interior basement walls have been removed at the time of the writing of this nomination.

All (20) basement windows are single panes set in painted metal window frames. The windows on the south end of the basement are open to air and light wells that extend out over 12' from the face of the

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

exposed basement walls. Expanded metal security grids in a heavy metal frame with locks and hinges have been added as a security measure to all of the basement windows. These are operable from the interior for exiting. There are three exterior doorways in the basement.

### Power Plant Chimney

The cast-in-place concrete power plant chimney stands on the northeast corner of the building about 20' from the face of the church wall. This chimney extends approximately 80'-0" above the finish grade. It is circular in shape. It tapers gently from the bottom to the top with a simple fluted capital extend down approximately 8'-0" from the top.

### Current Function

The building is presently unused. It has been in this condition for most of the last twenty-five years. For most of that time the building was abandoned, but in 1999 the building was purchased for renovation back to its original purpose.

### Current Condition

The exterior building is in overall good condition. There is, however, damage due to vandalism and the effect of weathering. Vandals have damaged some of the stained glass windows to gain access to the interior of the building and have removed all accessible copper downspouts, gutters and flashing, including the copper ridge flashing. The removal of these items and other damage caused during the removal process has allowed the elements to damage portions of the building's roofs and interior. The major exterior damage is to the roofs where moisture has deteriorated the decking supporting the slate upper roof and water damage has deteriorated portions of the lower built-up roofs where the downspouts have let water cascade unchecked. This has caused serious damage to the finished plaster ceilings, columns and wall surfaces in the nave and sacristy. While this damage looks bad, the overall building shows no significant structural damage. There are some signs or repair to the basement floor slab.

Renovations have been started by the New Day Missionary Baptist Church (the new owners). The roofs have been repaired, as has the basement. Interior basement walls (that were placed after the original construction) have been removed and walls have been re-plastered. Ramps and plumbing are in place and an occupancy license should be issued in mid August 2003. Work has begun on the south windows; the smaller eight windows have been repaired and protected with Lexan. Pews are being prepared for re-finishing; a new organ has been purchased.

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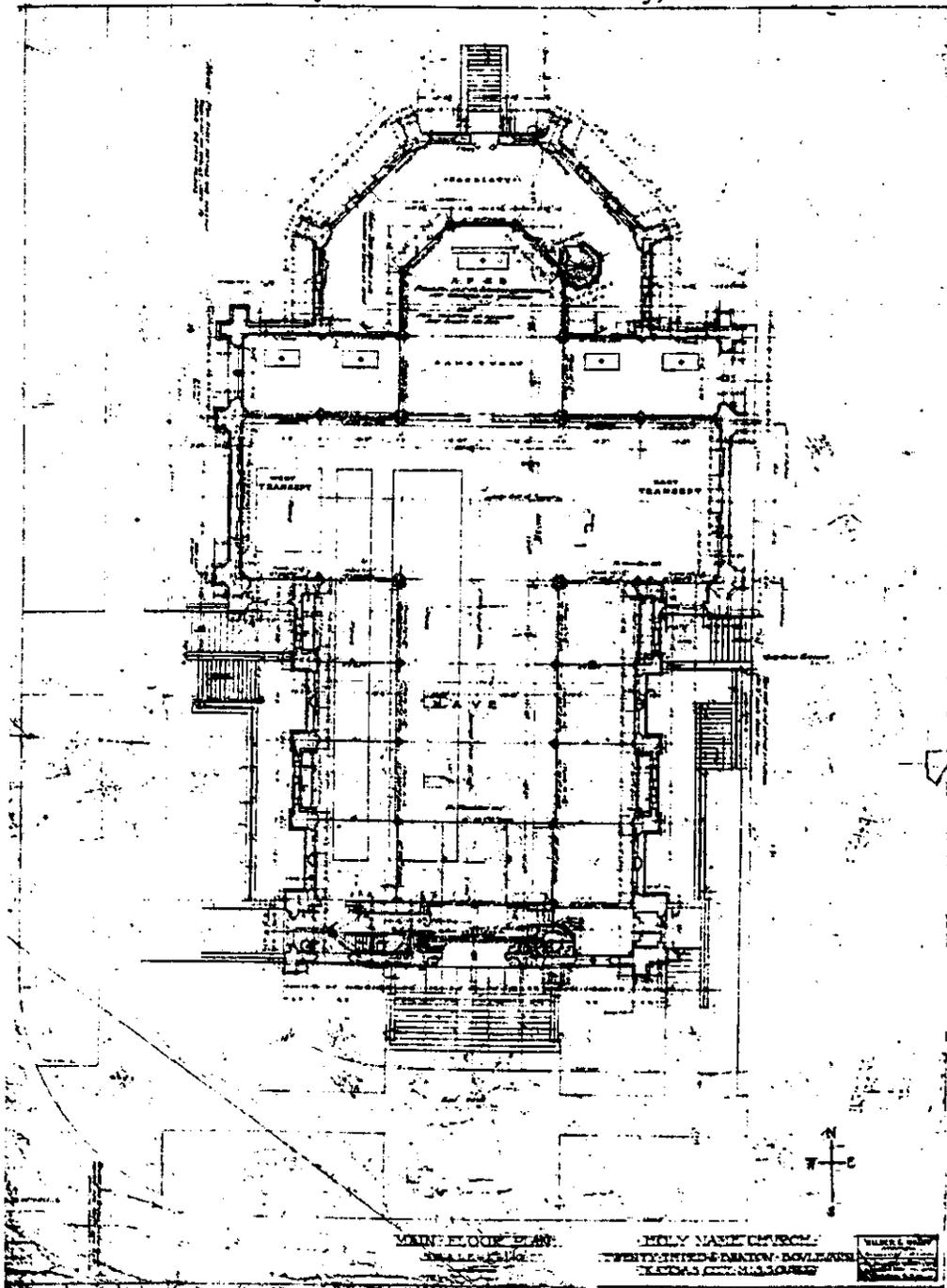
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section  
number

7 Page 7

Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

Original Plans of for Holy Name Church, Location: Western Manuscript Collection  
University of Missouri – Kansas City, Missouri



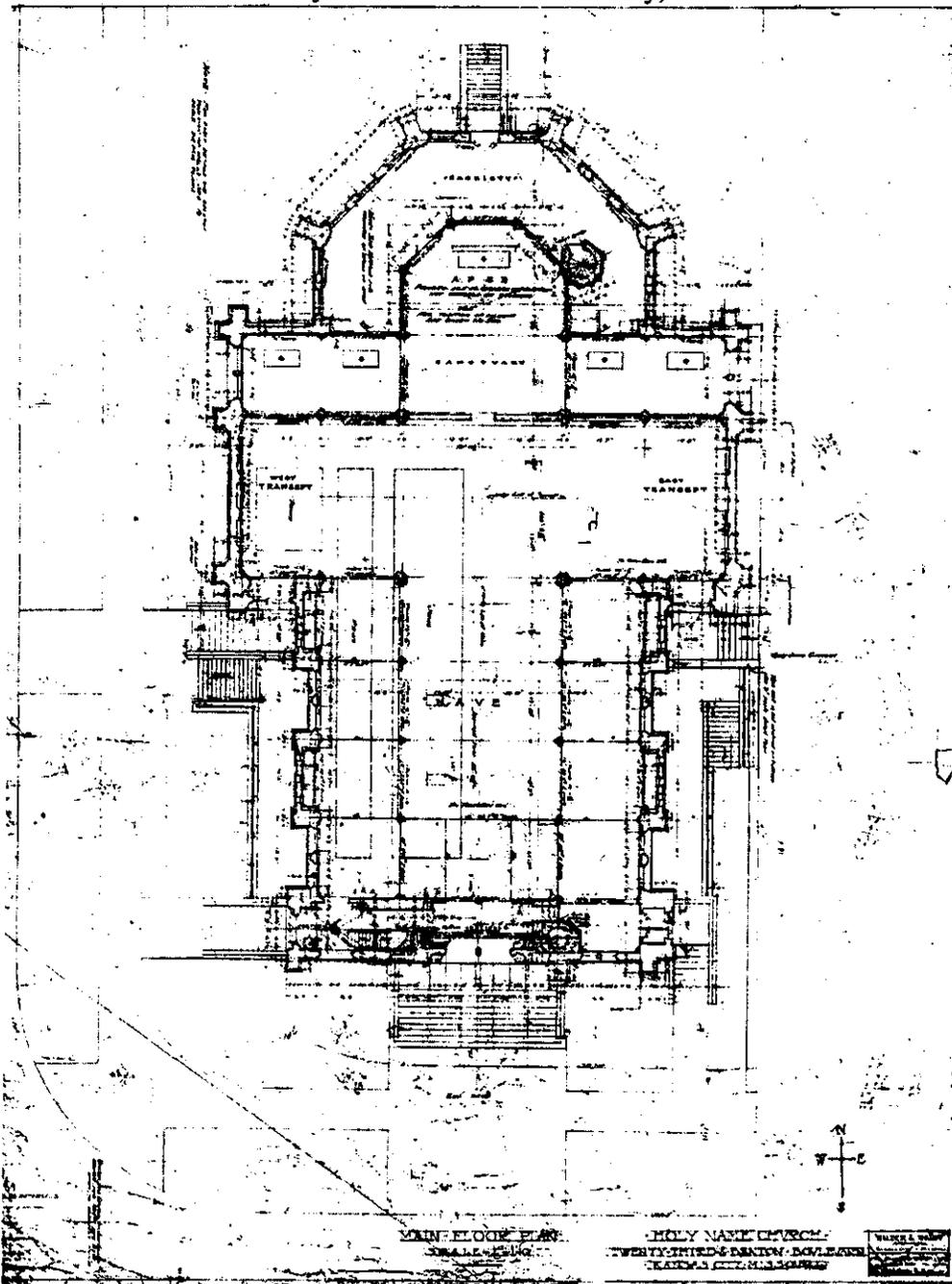
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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

Original Plans of for Holy Name Church, Location: Western Manuscript Collection  
University of Missouri – Kansas City, Missouri

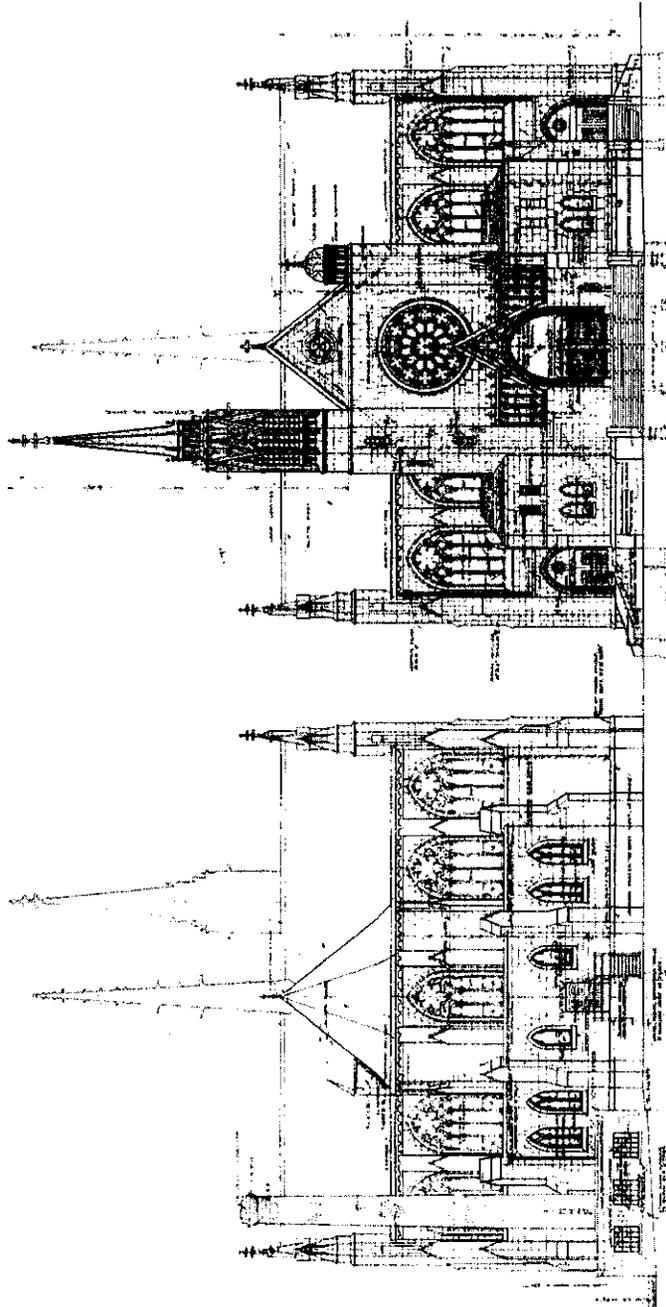


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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri



SOUTH ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

NORTH ELEVATION  
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

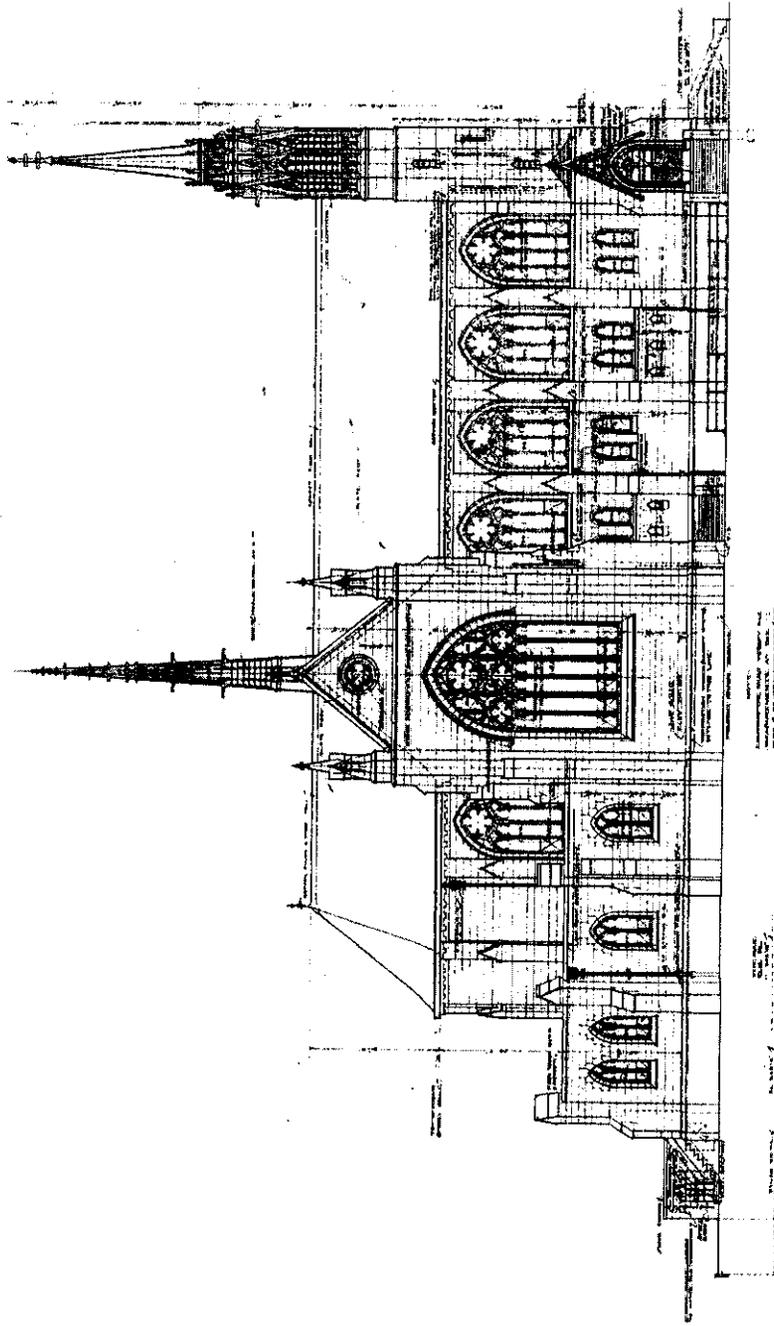
WORK SHEET NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PREPARED BY DATE SHEET NO. 8
HOLY NAME CHURCH IDENTIFIED & BENTON MISSOURI BENTON COUNTY, MO.

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri



WEST ELEVATION

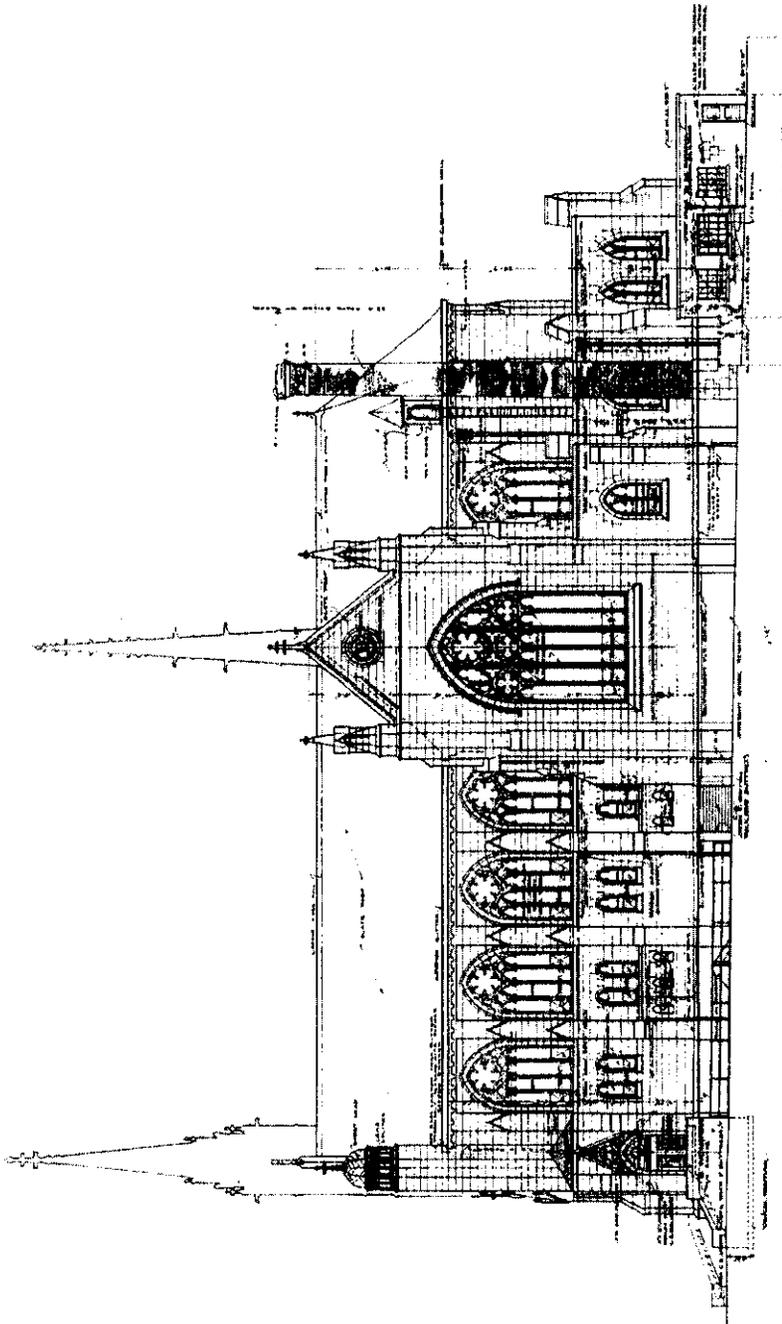
HOLY NAME CHURCH TWENTY-THIRD & BENTON KANSAS CITY - MO	NINETEENTH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE No. 100-100-100 Kansas City, Mo.
	G

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri



EAST ELEVATION

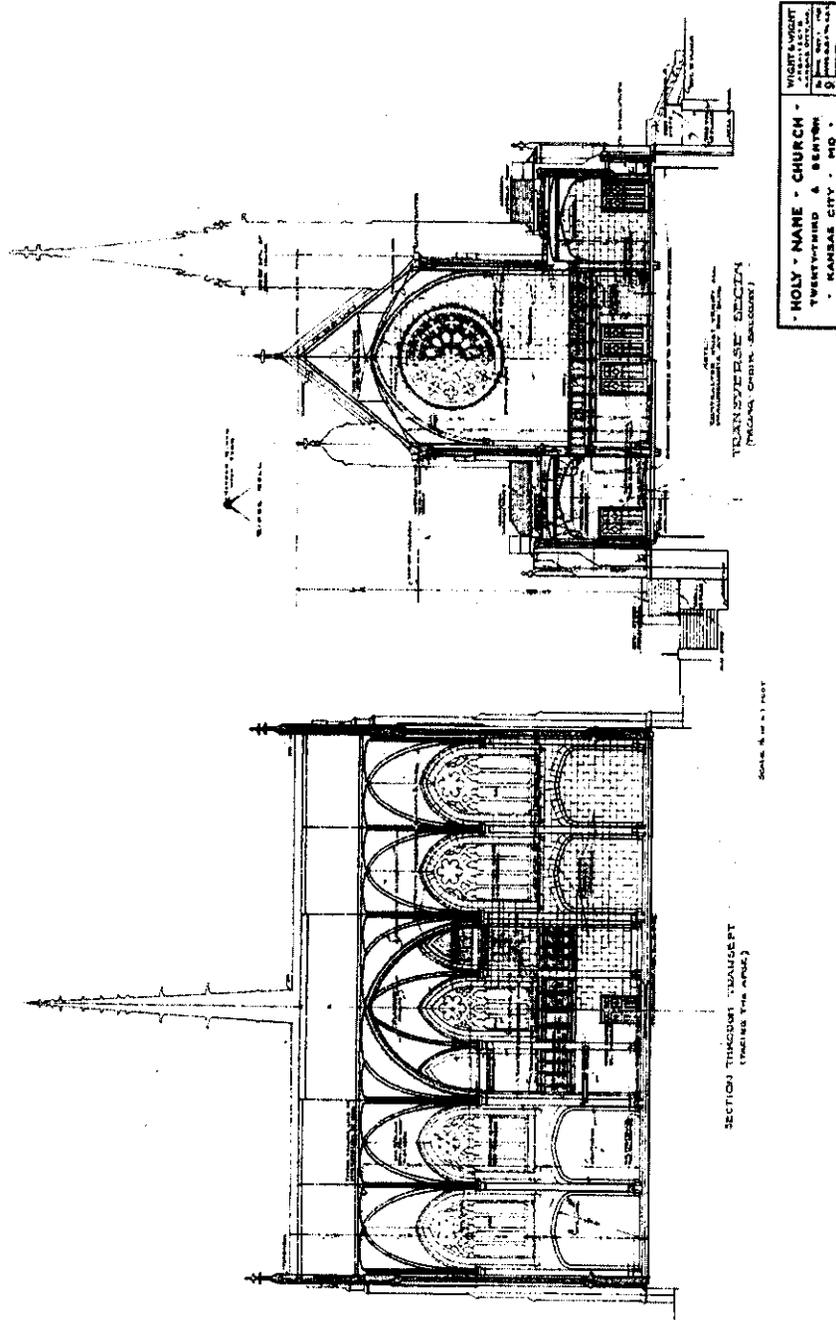
WRIGHT & WRIGHT ARCHITECTS 1000 BROADWAY NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018	HOLY NAME CHURCH TWENTYTHIRD & BERTON KANSAS CITY, MO
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

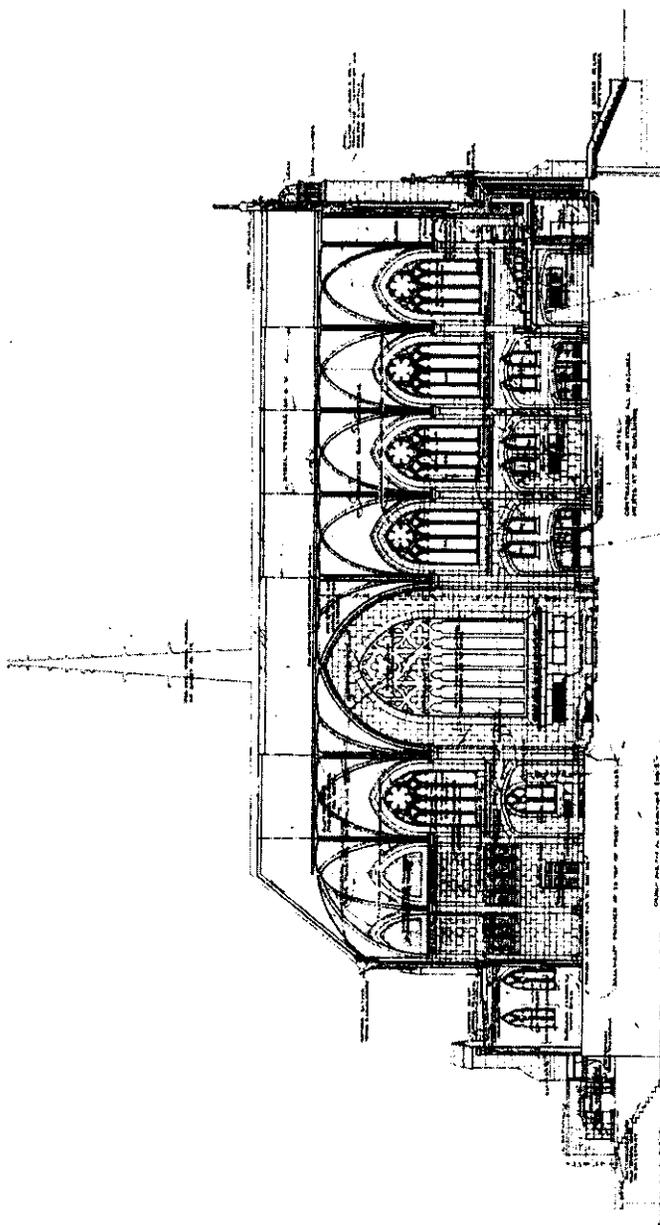


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri



LONGITUDINAL SECTION - NAVY

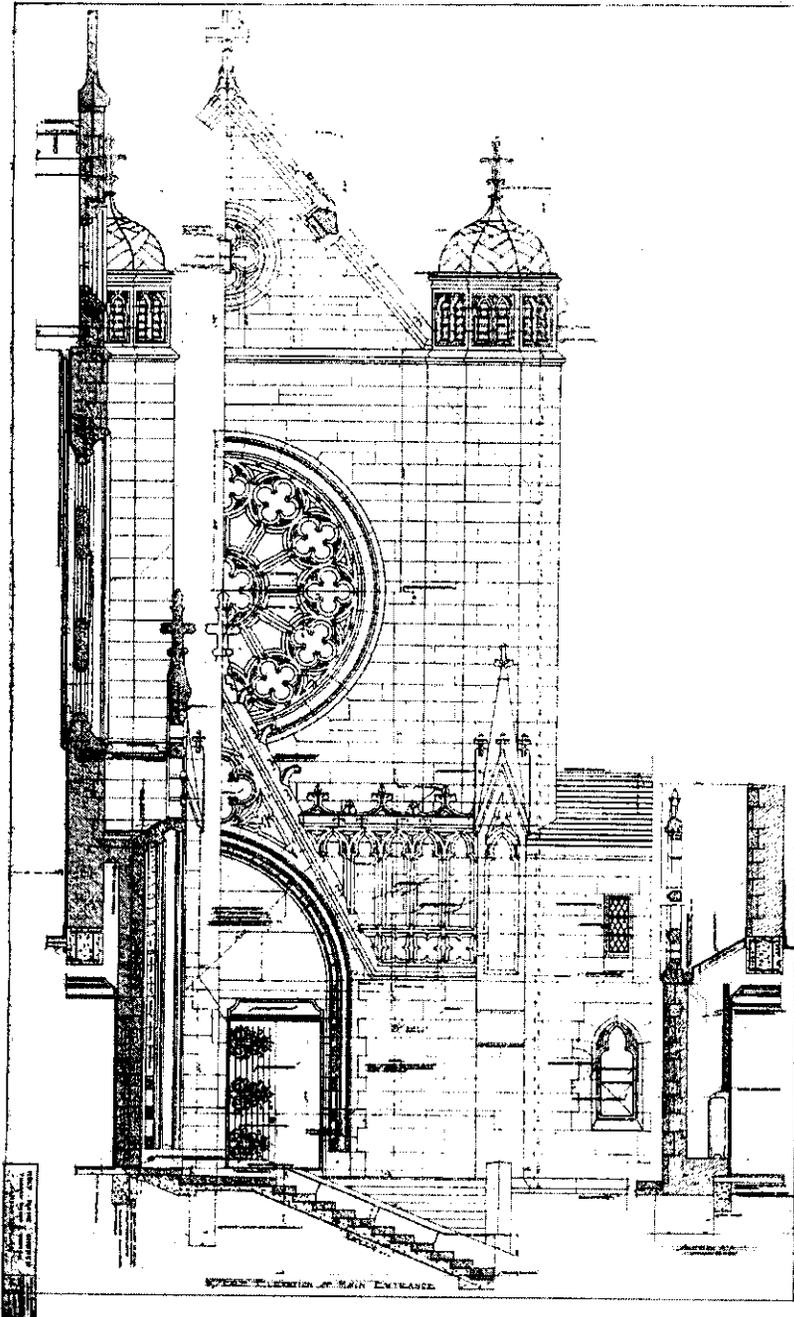
HOLY NAME CHURCH  
FRANCIS & BOSTON  
KANSAS CITY, MO.

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National Park Service

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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

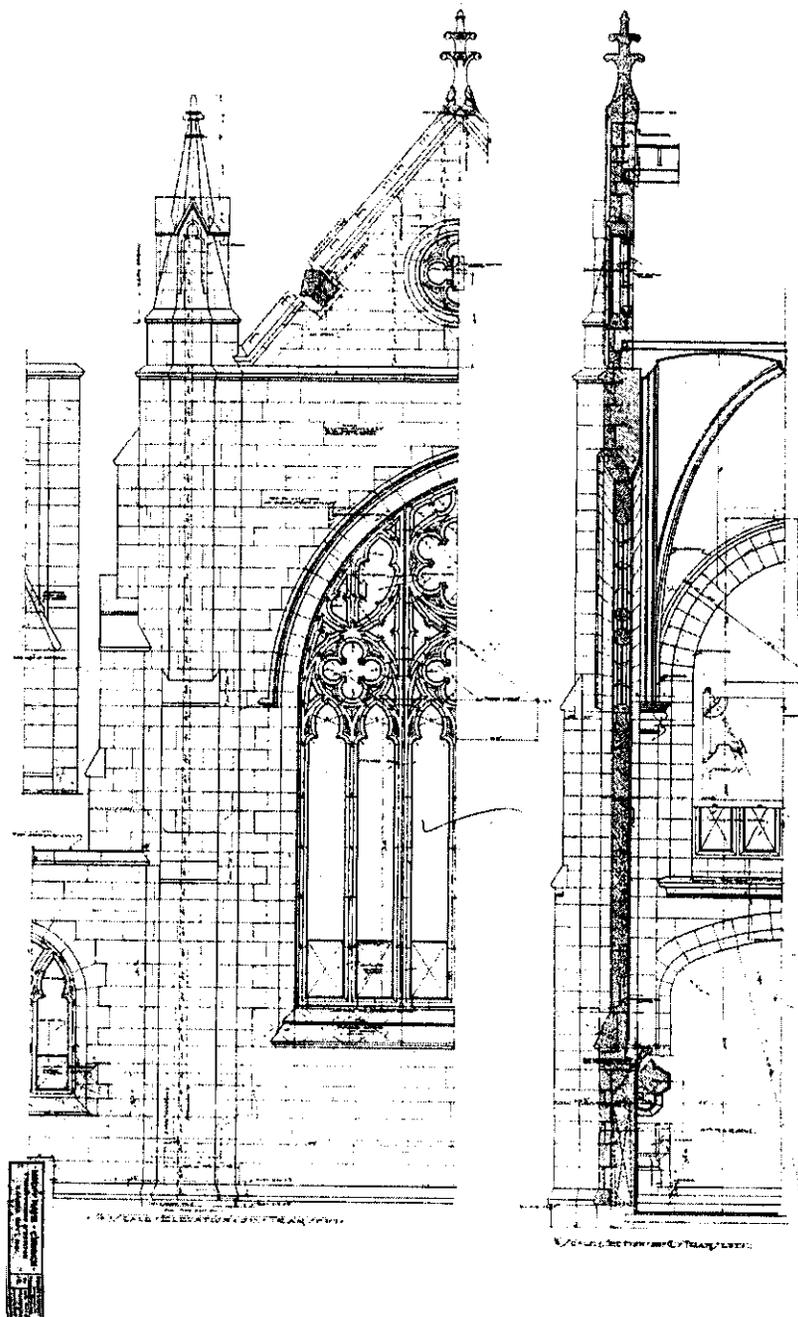


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

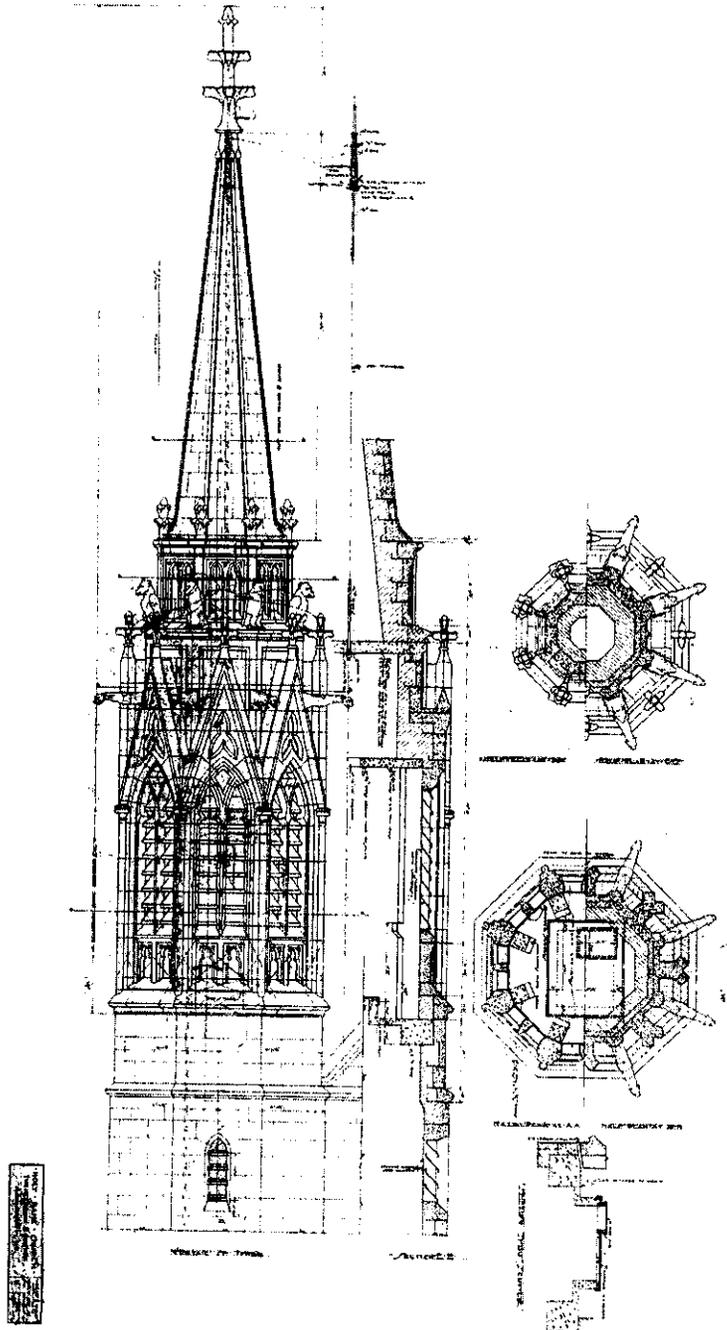


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

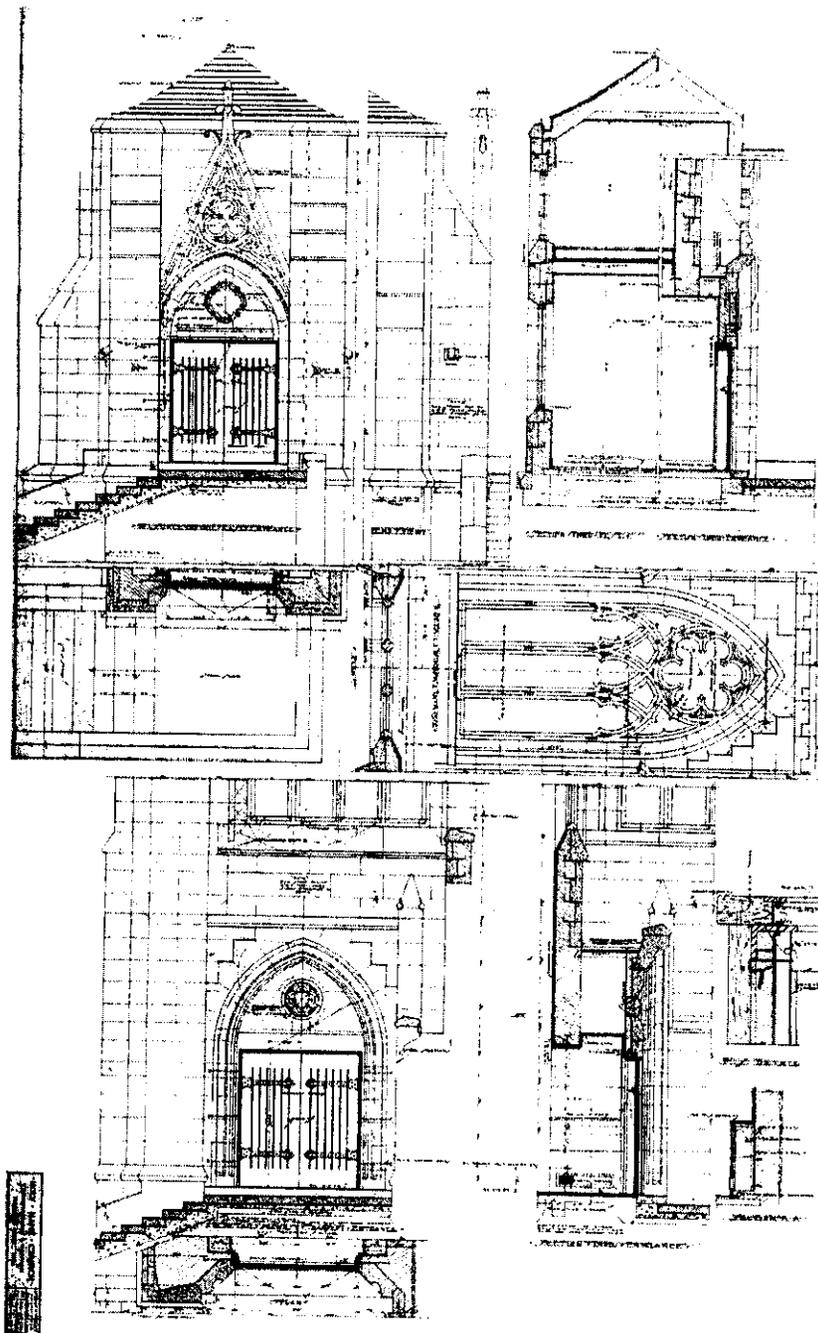


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

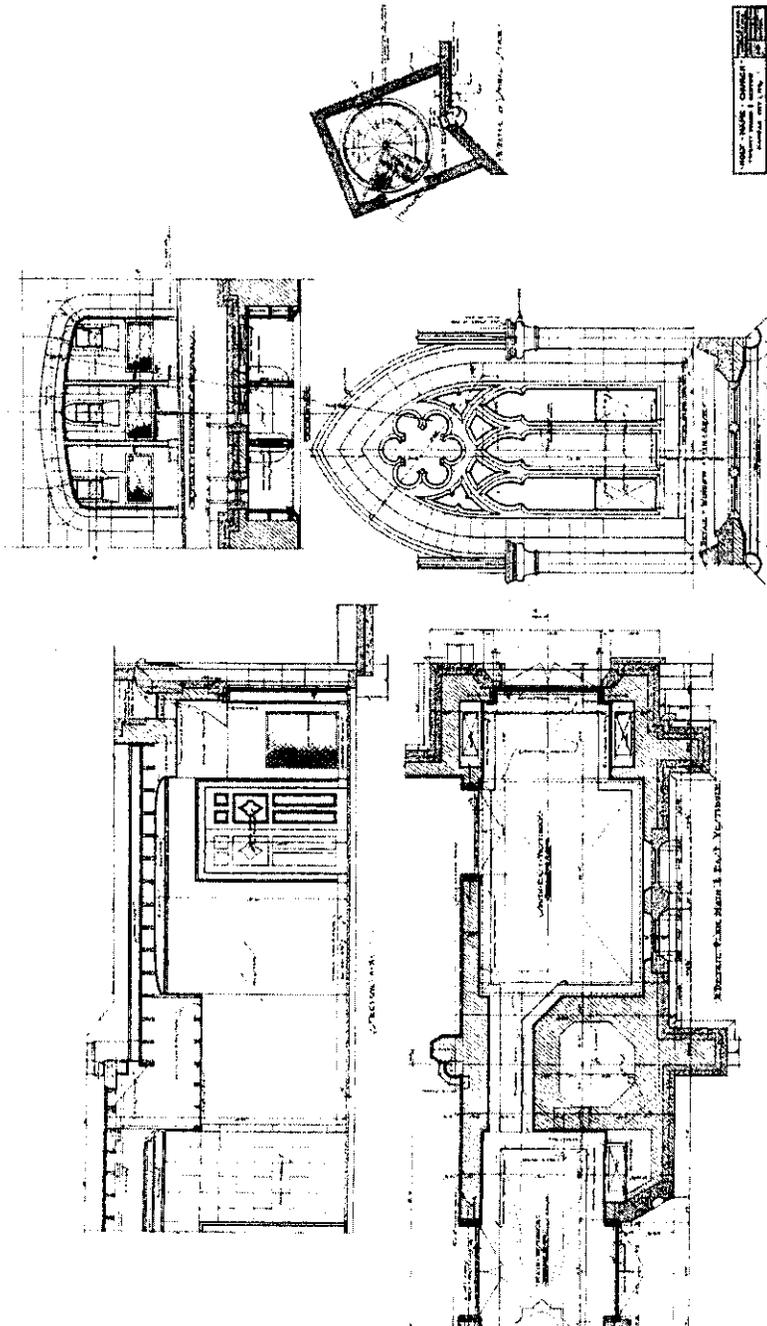


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

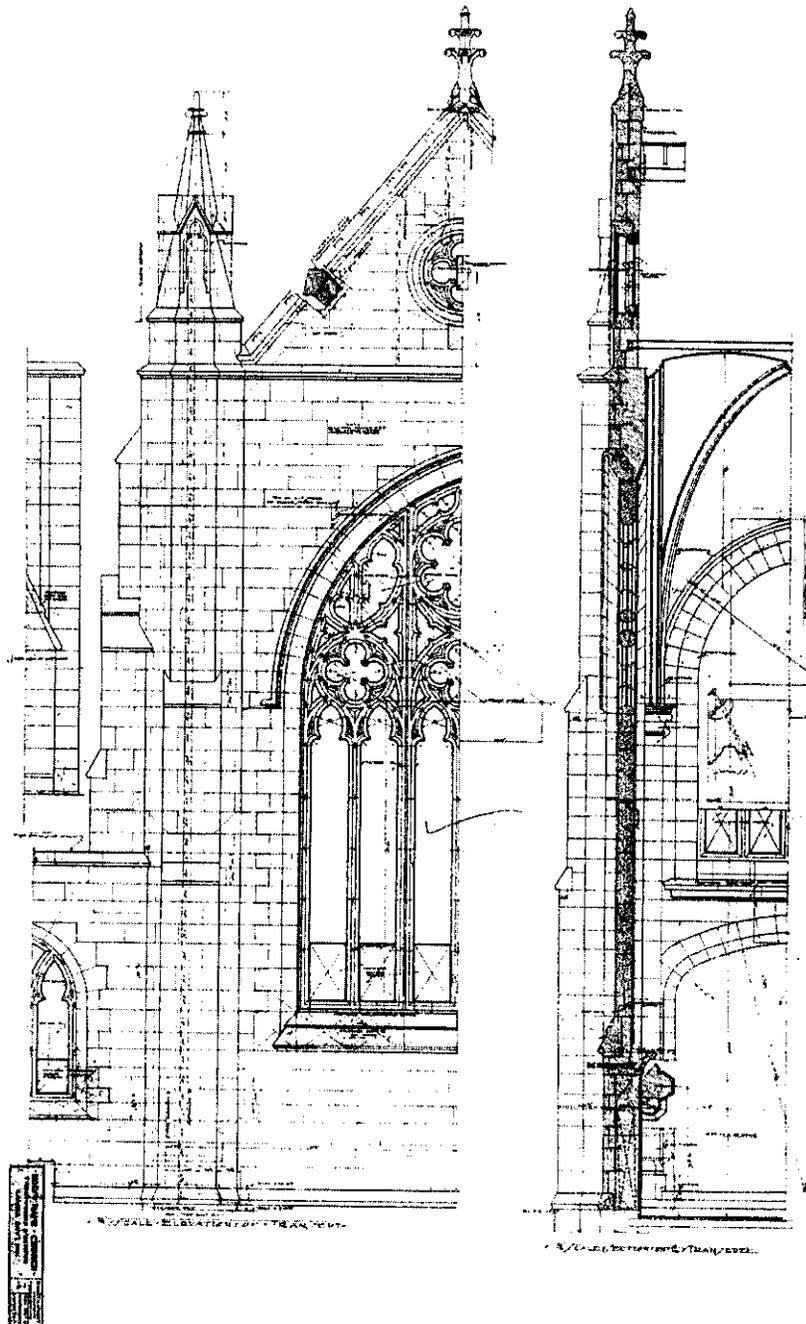


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

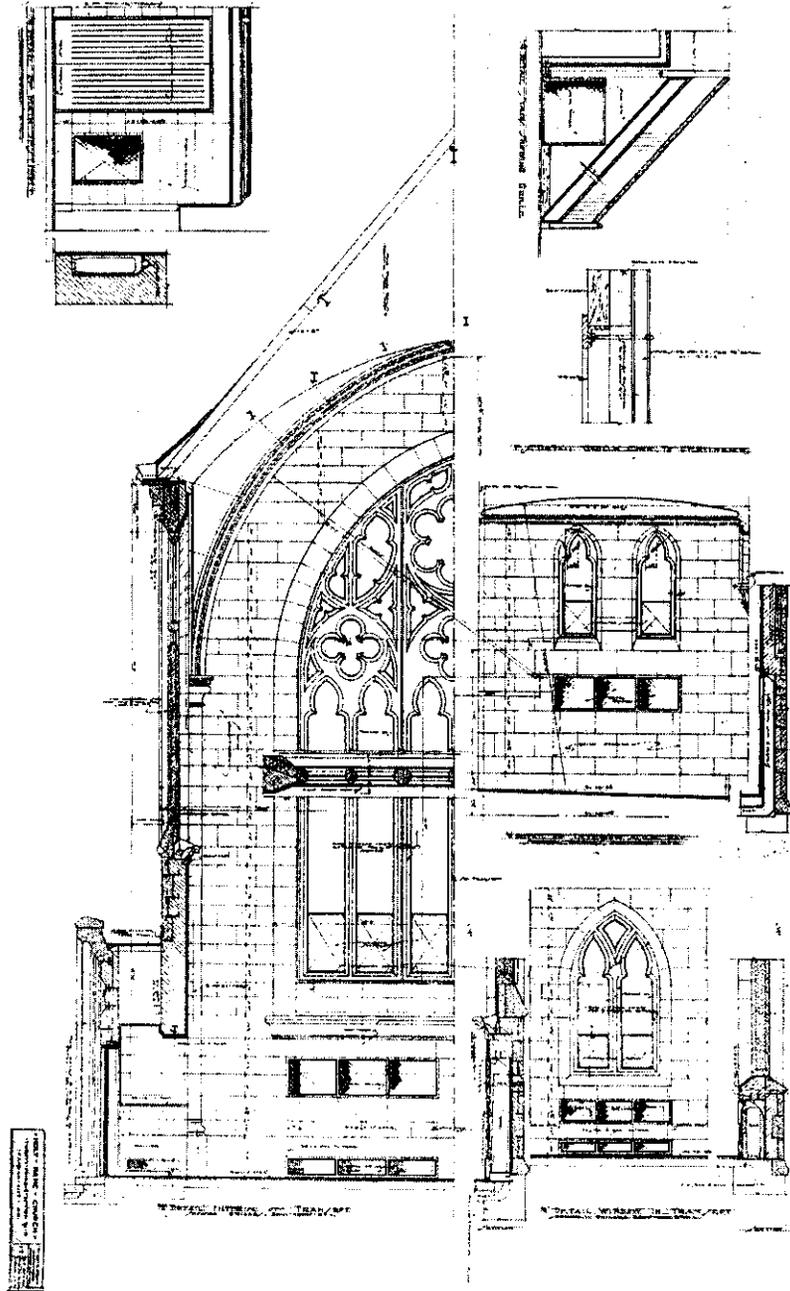


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri

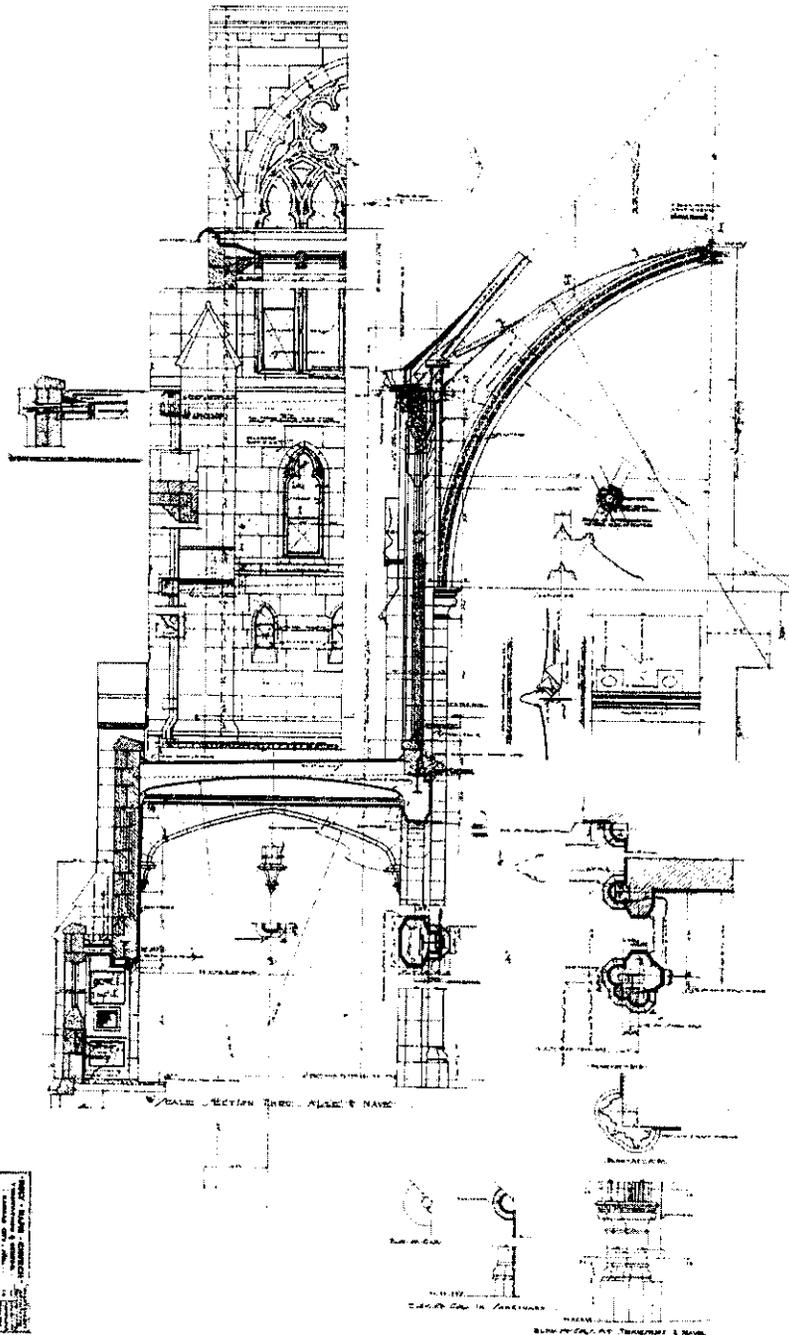


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Holy Name Church  
Jackson County, Missouri



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**Holy Name Catholic Church  
Jackson County, Missouri**

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### Summary

The Holy Name Catholic Church, 2800 East 23rd St., Kansas City, Jackson county, Missouri is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of SOCIAL HISTORY and ARCHITECTURE and under Criteria consideration A and G. The under Criterion A, the building is significant for its role in the 1968 riots in Kansas City following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The overall events of April 9, 1968 and the attack on the church by police are important to understanding the Civil Rights movement in Kansas City and the riots that ensued across the United States following the assassination. Under Criterion C, the building is a significant example of the Late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical building style designed by the architectural firm of Wight & Wight and modified by Henry Brinkman. The church is one of the rare examples of Late Gothic Revival style design by Wight & Wight, who were known mostly for their Neo-classical buildings. The church is a unique example of the Late Gothic Revival Style with its asymmetrical twin tower design and decorative detail. While the property is owned by a religious organization, the property derives its significance from its architecture and from significant events in the social history of the city. The periods of significance are 1911-1928, the period of building construction, and 1968 the year of the Kansas City race riots.

### The Holy Name Parish and subsequent Catholic Church - A brief history 1886-1911

The first large group of settlers in and around Kansas City were the fur traders who established a trading post along the Missouri River. These traders, primarily of French descent, traded and worked closely with the Native American tribes and villages in the area, establishing forts and small settlements for trade and protect. As settlements grew, missionaries were drawn to the area allowing the initial establishment of missionary churches.

Early churches were established in the areas that would become known as the West bottoms, River Que, City Market, and the downtown Loop of Kansas City. These first churches were by the 1880 beginning to be forced out by changes in living patterns and the alteration of these areas from residential to commercial in use. The retail and commercialization of downtown land, lead the original churches to purchase additional outlying land to establish and build new churches. Holy Name Catholic Church is one of these second-generation churches established after 1880.

Holy Name church was one of the founding churches in the near Southeast portion of the city during its second major residential expansion. The trustees picked a major hill top location at the Northeast corner of the intersection of 23rd St. and Benton Boulevard. At the time, this land was farmland at the edge of the expanding city. However, the location was one of the highest growth areas of the city. The city continued to expand to the south and east eventually enveloping the site with lower, middle class and upper class residential neighborhoods.

Fr. J.A. Sheridan, OP, formally established the Dominican parish on January 1, 1886 on the feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord, the time in Jewish law when a child received his name--hence the parish was called Holy Name of Jesus. Mass was held in the home of Julius Herold that day with thirty-five people present. The property was purchased from Thomas Swope for \$13,000; additional land was purchased from

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John Birmingham for \$17,000. These lands compose the present site of Holy Name Cathedral and the adjacent school presently known as Seaton Center.

In April 1887 Daniel Cantwell, contractor, erected the first Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church building near 23rd Street and Monroe for the sum of \$2,900. By September 8, 1887 a new rectory was dedicated. On June 9, 1890 a school was established just east of the church's location and in September opened with 67 pupils. By 1907 additional land was purchased for the eventual site of the cathedral complex.

### The Years 1911-1928

In the early 1900s, the architectural firm of Wilder & Wight was chosen to design a new church to house the Holy Name congregation. The firm was known in Kansas City for their monumental buildings and the quality of their designs. Throughout the design and construction of the building, the parish suffered continuous financial difficulties. Wilder & Wight, who around 1910 became Wight & Wight, worked with the congregation through the 1910s to modify the design to reduce costs.

In 1911 the basement was completed, but the church was in trouble financially. A roof was put on the basement and for the next thirteen years the construction was at a standstill. In 1920 the parish sold their previous site at 23rd and Monroe. The money from that sale, plus additional money from donations and loans from the Catholic diocese allowed for the final completion of drawings and the beginning of construction.

Throughout the 1910s the proposed design of the church continued to evolve. The original plan for the church was larger with extended transepts and a massive central spire. Financial concerns led to the reduction in the size of the spire and other detail changes. Conflicts arose between Wight & Wight and church officials which led the church to sever its ties with the firm in 1921. The parish hired Henry Brinkman of Eldorado, Kansas to provide the final plans (completed in October 1921). With the exception of the deletion of the central steeple and the extended transepts the two designs are remarkably similar with only minor detail changes and material choice differences between the two designs. Construction of the church began in 1924 and church, modeled after the Cathedral at Rouen, France, was dedicated June 3, 1928.

### The Church and its Architecture

Holy Name Church is significant under the National Register Criterion "C" for the area of Architecture, as a well designed representative of the Late Gothic Revival style of architecture in Kansas City. It is also significant as an excellent example of the designs of Wight & Wight architects, a prominent Kansas City architectural firm.

The Late Gothic Revival style was popular in Kansas City from the late 19th to the mid-20th century. There are a total of ninety-one Late Gothic Revival churches remaining in the city. Of these, forty-eight are of stone construction while the rest are of brick or frame construction. Most examples surveyed are modestly designed churches with restrained gothic details such as pointed arched windows or entrances.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Deon Wolfenbarger, Thomason and Associates, Religious Properties in Kansas City, Missouri, 1992., pp. 46 and 49-50.

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The earliest extant Late Gothic Revival church in Kansas city is the 1888 St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 1307 Holmes (NR listed 11/7/1978). Many of the City's largest churches of the turn of the century were built in the Late Gothic Revival Style. Stone construction was widespread in the city during these years and many of the large churches and cathedras were built with limestone exteriors. A survey of religious properties in Kansas City noted significant examples of the Late Gothic Revival style in the city including the Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral at 415 W. 13th St. (1890), Redeptorist Church at 3333 Broadway (1908), St. Stephens catholic Church at 1029 Bennington Ave. (1916-1922), and Holy Name Catholic Church (1928).

Most of the stone Late Gothic Revival churches were built in imitation of European church designs, including details such as wall buttresses, pointed arched windows, tracery, and steeply pitched gable and hipped roofs. Variations in detail include, roof finials and spires, quatrefoil windows and bell towers, all of which can be seen on Holy Name Catholic Church. The placement of twin bell towers on primary façade is far less common, and those that do exist in the city are usually symmetrical. Holy name is unique in that it has an asymmetrical façade with a tall bell tower and spire on one corner of the entrance and a smaller, domed tower, on the other corner.

Holy Name was one of the largest churches built in the Kansas City area during the first quarter of the 20th century. Designed to resemble an existing church in Rouen, France, the overall shape and choice of materials reflect that decision, although the church is much smaller and less elaborately detailed than its European sister.

The Late Gothic Revival style is reflected throughout the building. Gothic details include the cruciform floorplan, pointed-arched stained glass windows, beautifully designed tracery, and whimsical gargoyles around the bell tower. The interior also reflects its gothic design heritage. The vaulted ceiling has decorative plaster tracery between support columns, stained-glass windows illuminate the sanctuary, and murals can be found on the north end of the nave.

### Architects

All of the firms and architects involved in the design of the church were prominent in Kansas City and actively designed high profile buildings in and around the City.

*Wilder & Wight and Wight & Wight.* After looking at several cities, Thomas Wight and his partner Edward Wilder, both former employees of prominent architectural firm McKim, Meade, and White, came to Kansas City in 1904. The firm struggled early on after several projects fell through. However, the firm was given a chance by a realtor to do a preliminary design for the First National Bank in an attempt to lure the bank to the location at 10th and Baltimore Streets. The design was a success and launched their career in Kansas City. In 1911, Thomas's brother, also from the New York architectural firm of McKim, Meade and White, came to Kansas City. Thomas bought out Wilder's share and the firm evolved into Wight & Wight. The firm was chosen for many of the monumental buildings in Kansas City and was especially known for their Neoclassical style buildings, such as the National Register listed George Nettleton Home, the Kirkwood Building and the First National Bank Bulidng. This particular church is one of the few examples of Wight & Wight designs using the Late Gothic Revival style. This design reflects the influence of the Redeptorist church, an earlier commission of Wilder & Wight that started construction in 1909 and was completed in 1912.

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Wight and Wight were the primary design architects of the Holy Name Catholic Church and produced a full set of working drawings that were used with only minor alteration by Henry Brinkman to reduce the cost of design and construction.

*H.W. Brinkman (Emporia KS).* Henry W. Brinkman's architectural firm was a major designer of churches in the Kansas City area of Kansas and Missouri, and was hired to complete the final drawings from which Holy Name Church was constructed. Brinkman's work included the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, and St. Francis Seraph (Brinkman & Steele).

### **Holy Name and the Neighborhood**

Throughout its history, Holy Name Catholic Church was challenged, not only financially as seen in the construction history, but also by the changing needs and demographics of the neighborhood. While the construction of the building stalled in 1911, the neighborhood around the church site continued to develop. Benton Boulevard was completed in 1907, allowing for continued growth and expansion into the area. The Kansas City Directory shows that a middleclass neighborhood populated by people of mixed European heritage was developing around the church. The directory shows physicians, lawyers, contractors, engineers and laborers, salesmen, firemen and even widows living nearby. Photos of the time present a clean developing neighborhood with the "new" Benton Boulevard setting the tone for progress as a vital route for future growth and development.

While much of the population around the church was middle class, it should be noted that around 1910-1911 several African American families moved into the area around 25<sup>th</sup> and Montgall. White residents tried to remove these families through a series of death threats. The conflict culminated in six explosions in the area. In some sense, this was an indication of the future change in population of the neighborhood from primarily middleclass whites to poorer working class whites and African Americans.

In the 1930s there were 434 families in the parish and the church began to develop programs and events to service the needs of the parishioners. A Boy Scout troop (1934), credit union (1941), and radio station (1953), were just a few of the many programs provided by the church to serve the spiritual and social needs of the community. Some of these services, such as the bowling alley installed in 1953, also helped the church to keep its doors open and maintain the building.

Overall societal changes affected the neighborhood and church itself. In 1948 the US Supreme Court outlawed racial discrimination in real estate covenants and deed restrictions in the landmark case, *Shelley vs. Kraemer*. After this trial, more African-American families moved in and white families left the neighborhood around Holy Name. In May of 1951 the Kansas City Arch Diocese, realizing the financial straits of the church suggested they merge with Holy Spirit Parish (an African American parish). A parish letter cited "circumstances beyond our control are to blame" for the integration. The strain financially and socially was beginning to show.

While mass and other church services became integrated after 1951, some aspects of the church remained segregated. The bowling alley, which was installed in the basement to supplement church income in

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1953, remained for whites only. Some questioned how long the alley would continue to prohibit blacks, but Fr. Conway, predecessor of the church noted that "The white people would leave us flat if that [integration] occurred, we have always been able to explain this to our colored friends who realize all the "white business" is for the benefit of the poor Negroes."

By 1959, the parish was over \$68,000 in debt and the Sunday collection of approximately \$150.00 each week didn't cover the continuing costs to maintain and run the church. The parish continued, however, to change and expand services to the area. In 1963, the Kansas City Jet Boy's Club used the facilities at Holy Name for its 24 members who provided athletic activities for some 200 boys and girls. An "Outdoor Drive-in Mission" started. The "Drive-In" mission consisted of an evening program with a talk, a film and best of all hand bills that read "All Invited-- No Collections."

It was, however, the changing demographics of the neighborhood, as well as the parish's desire to serve the local population that led to its involvement in the riots that broke out in Kansas City on April 9, 1968.

### **Holy Name and the Kansas City Riots of April 1968**

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1922-1968), clergyman and Nobel Prize winner, was one of the principal leaders of the American civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of nonviolent protest. He was assassinated by a sniper in Memphis, TN on April 4, 1968. News of King's murder resulted in an outpouring of shock and anger throughout the nation and the world, prompting riots in more than 100 US cities in the days following the assassination. The intensity of grief felt by African Americans may have been impossible for others to fathom, and as the news spread across the nation, violence spontaneously erupted in several urban centers.

Race riots had become more common in the United States in the mid-1960s. Nationwide, 7,942 people had been wounded and 191 killed in race riots between 1964 and 1968.<sup>4</sup> The term "long, hot summer" was coined during the period to refer to the riot activities.<sup>5</sup> Kansas City had been spared much of the earlier violence that had erupted in other cities throughout the mid-1960s. However, the fourth "long, hot summer" arrived two months early in 1968.

No violence broke out in Kansas City after the initial news of King's assassination. However, several events would occur over the next few days that would incite protest and riot in the city. These events would eventually lead to 6 deaths, hundreds of injuries, and over \$4 million in property damage.

Many African Americans in Kansas City still suffered from poor housing, school segregation, police racism and other inequities. Anger and frustration among many of the youth bubbled up after a pivotal moment on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, when the Kansas City school district decided to hold classes while other area schools closed in observance of the funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr. While the school planned to hold a district-wide assembly honoring King, many students felt that the memory of King had been slighted by the district's decision to hold class.

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<sup>4</sup> Joel Rhodes, "It Finally Happened Here; The 1968 Race Riot in Kansas City, Missouri," *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 3, April 1997, p. 296.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 295.

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On the morning of April 9<sup>th</sup>, over two hundred students at Lincoln High School, a predominately black school, left at the time of the assembly and marched south to join students at Central and Manual High Schools, two of the city's other predominantly African-American Schools.<sup>6</sup> Hearing that the students were marching, Police Chief Clarence Kelly decided to move into a tactical alert, phase II of Kansas City's riot control plan. Following the announcement, reports of vandalism started coming in as the crowd around Central school overturned several small cars and broke out windows.<sup>7</sup> As a result of the growing tensions, Central released its students, many of whom joined the marchers as they moved south toward Paseo High School.<sup>8</sup>

Vandalism continued along the route eventually causing a clash between police and marchers at 34<sup>th</sup> and Indiana where the marchers were sprayed with mace. The protesters were incensed by what seemed to be an unprovoked attack on the crowd by police, and turned toward City Hall to demand an apology from Mayor Illus Davis.<sup>9</sup> At City Hall, crowds gathered and tensions mounted as the marchers were met with city police, state troupers and National Guardsmen in full riot gear. City officials and community leaders tried to diffuse tension and disperse the crowds, but shouts from marchers and cherry bombs exploding in the middle of the gathering frayed nerves.

Around noon, KPRS announced that a dance would be held at Holy Name Catholic Church and the busses already at City Hall would be used to ferry protesters to the church. The radio station, which opened in 1950, was the nation's first Black radio station west of the Mississippi. As the voice of the city's African American community, it was hoped that the word of the dance would spread and help turn energies away from riot and protest. Approximately 200 of the 1000 or so protesters gathered at City Hall left on the busses for the church.<sup>10</sup>

Despite the reduction in the number of people gathered at City Hall, violence soon broke out as a teargas canister exploded in the midst of the crowd. It is unclear who set off the teargas (police or protesters), but as a result of the confusion, police set off 7 more canisters in the crowd. The marchers broke and ran with police in pursuit. Splinter groups from the gathering scattered throughout the area leading to further confrontation between marchers and police, personal violence and the continued destruction of property.<sup>11</sup>

While many hoped that the dance at the church would help diffuse tension and redirect energies, "Holy Name proved to be a doubtful refuge."<sup>12</sup> Apparently unaware of the dance in progress at the church, police responded to a disturbance call reporting activity around the building. Students outside the church stoned the first policeman to arrive. The police used teargas to break up the crowd outside the church and several students ran into the building. Officers, believing rioters had run into the church shot several additional

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 298,

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 299.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 300.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 302.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 303.

<sup>12</sup> Albert Zutter. "KPRS Radio Station Dance Tear Gassing Just Prior to City Riots," *New People*, April 12, 1968.

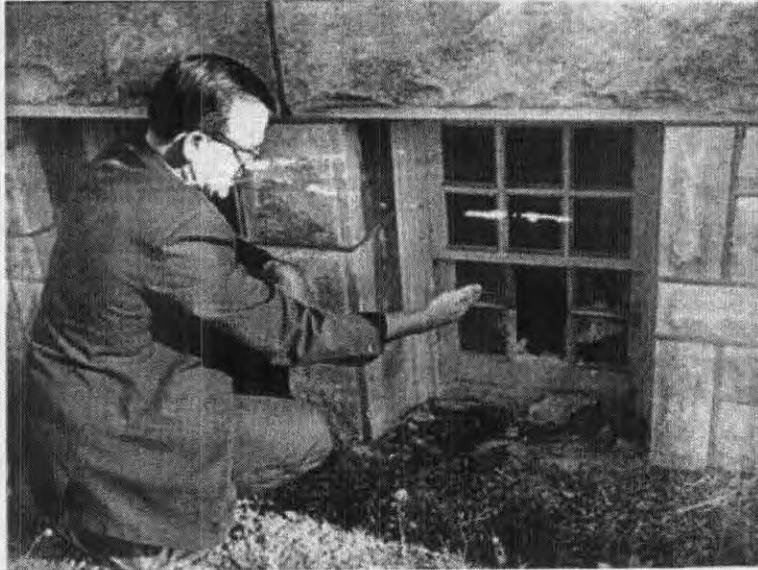
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canisters of teargas into the basement of the church causing mass confusion in the building.



Father Gibbons of Holy Name showing damage from 1968 riot.

Instead of calming the potential for riots, as hoped, the gathering at Holy Name Catholic Church may have actually fueled the violence. The Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Book of the Church of the Risen Christ has the following observation: "Many believe the riots here would not have occurred or would have been less violent had it not been for the tear-gassing of the 400 black teens in the basement of Holy Name Church on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 9th. In the days which followed many people died and hundreds of fires were set".

The riots lasted sporadically until April 11<sup>th</sup>, and the state of emergency was lifted by April 18<sup>th</sup>. In all, over one hundred persons had been arrested. Two national guardsmen, two firefighters, and a policemen had been wounded by sniper fire while over 150 fires had been set.<sup>13</sup> Six African Americans were killed during the riot.<sup>14</sup> Though the Holy Name Catholic Church dance was only one of the incidents that fueled much of the protests, the incident and the riot represented the culmination of the frustration of many African Americans in Kansas City in their fight for equal rights. Due to rising expectations and the heightened activism brought about by the civil rights movement, the war on poverty, and the Black Power movement, African Americans increasingly found the universal grievances regarding housing, employment, education and the police intolerable. These riots, though violent at times, led to many changes in how African Americans were represented in government at all levels and was the start to a period of major advances in civil rights for minorities in Kansas City.

<sup>13</sup> Kansas City Times, 11 April, 1968

<sup>14</sup> Rhodes, 295.

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### Prologue

After the riots, the church continued to serve the community much as it did before. However, the financial burden to maintain the building and provide services proved too much for the dwindling number of parishioners. The Holy Name Church was sold to Bishop Harris E. Moore, of the Church of Christ, on July 15, 1975 for \$70,000. The church was renamed Barker Temple and a temporary plastic enclosure was constructed inside the church to reduce heating costs. The result was a building inside the original sanctuary. The church complex was further broken up when the rectory was sold in 1977 and the school in 1980.

The small number of people attending Barker Temple were unable to continue to use the building and sold it to the Church of God in Christ who used this facility for approximately five years. There is differing information as to when this group stopped using this building. Thereafter the building was resold to numerous smaller congregations until the mid-1980 when the structure was completely abandoned. The cost of maintaining a facility that could hold over 900 people was just too much a burden on a small group. However, 2001 it was purchased by New Day Missionary Baptist Church with hopes of restoring the building and continuing to use it for worship as well as other community services.

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Letter from Bishop John P. Cody, March 27, 1959, removal of Bowling Lanes from basement.

Letter from Bishop of Kansas City to Father McDermott, O.P., February 17th 1924. Concerning the costs of the construction of the new church and the selection of architects.

Letter from Thomas F. Lillis, D.D. to Bishop of Kansas City, April 12th, 1924. Concerning release of Wight and Wight as architects of church and the assignment of Brinkman Architects.

Brinkman and Hagan Architects, January 27, 1927, Letter to J.F. Houlehan Realty Co., Kansas City, Missouri concerning financial costs for the completion of Holy Name to building loan holding company.

Letter February 17, 1954, Reverend Bishop of Kansas City to J.W. Conway O/P, concerning relationship of Radio Station KPRS and Holy Name Catholic Church.

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### Boundary Description

Lots 37, 38, 39 and 40, except that part of said lots in Benton Boulevard, and lot 41, except that part of said lot 41 in Benton Boulevard and in 23rd Street, HOLMESDALE, a subdivision in Kansas City, Jackson County Missouri, According to the recorded plat thereof, and all the vacated street or road lying East of and adjoining said lots; and a part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 49, Range 33, described as beginning at the intersection of the South line of 22nd Street with the East line of Benton Boulevard to the North line of the plat of HOLMESDALE; thence East along the North Line of said plat of Holmesdale and said line produced East, a distance of 18.5 feet, more or less, to a point thereon fifteen feet West of the West line of the plat of Chestnut Heights; thence North parallel to the West of the alley conveyed by Quit-Claim Deed dated June 22, 1908, of record in Book B-1125 at page 373 as Document No. 672455, to a point on the South line of 22nd Street that is 15 feet West of the Northwest corner of Lot One (1) of Chestnut Heights, thence more or less, to the point of the South line of 22nd street a distance of 118.5 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; all of the above described tracts being included within the following: Beginning at the intersection of the South line of 22nd Street with the East line of Benton Boulevard as now established and running thence East along the South line of 22nd Street to its intersection with the West line of the alley conveyed to Kansas City, Missouri, by Quit-Claim Deed dated June 22, 1908, of record in Book B1, 125 at Page 373, Document Number 672455, thence South along the West line of said alley to its intersection with the North line of Benton Boulevard, thence Westerly, Northwesterly, and Northeasterly along said boulevard line to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries contain all the city lots that have been historically associated with the church building itself.

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The following is true for all photographs:

Property: Holy Name Catholic Church  
2800 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri  
Photos by: Bruce Best  
Date taken: November 2002

### Photo Log

1. South façade, spire, entry and east side. Taken from the south looking north.
2. East façade and tracery window. Taken from the east looking west.
3. West façade, spire and tracery window. Taken from the west looking east.
4. South façade, parapets, and roof. Taken from the north looking south.
5. South entry, spire, rose window and façade detail. Taken from the south looking north.
6. Ceiling, rotunda, windows and wall detail. Taken from the south looking north.
7. Sanctuary, ceiling, stained glass and choir loft. Taken from the north looking south.
8. Interior of north rotunda fresco detail on ceiling. Taken from the west looking east.
9. East tracery window. Taken from the west looking east.















